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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V

DATE: February 1, 1994

SUBJECT: Regional Decision Team Strategy Approval
for the Sauget, Il. Area #1 Site

FROM: Jodi Traub, Acting Associate Director
Office of Superfund *Jodi Traub*

TO: File

Attached is the Regional Decision Team (RDT) strategy approval for the Sauget, Il. Area #1 Site. The strategy was presented by the Site Assessment Team on January 20 and was approved by the RDT.

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Sauget, Il. Area #1 Site Background

The Sauget Area 1 Site consists of nine source areas in the villages of Sauget and Cahokia, St. Clair County, Il. Originally named the village of Monsanto, the town which is predominantly industrial changed its name to Sauget in 1968. Source areas at the site include intermittent portions of Dead Creek, as well as low-lying areas in the vicinity used for waste disposal. The Sauget Area 1 Site has been the subject of extensive waste disposal activities since the 1930s.

The Sauget Area 1 sources were aggregated because of their relative proximity to each other, shared watershed along Dead Creek, and similar nature of contamination. Previous sampling has revealed organic and inorganic contamination in each of the sources. The compounds detected most frequently and at the highest concentrations include various solvents, various diclorobenzene compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and heavy metals. Elevated groundwater contamination has also been detected. Approximately 150,000 people live within 4 miles of the site although none of the residents are exposed to any potential groundwater contamination.

Strategy for Sauget Area #1 Site based on January 20 Meeting

As a result of the January 20 Regional Decision Team (RDT) briefing and discussion on the Sauget, Il. Area #1 Site, the following decisions were made:

- 1) U.S. EPA would take the lead of enforcement activities in pursuit of an agreement with potentially responsible parties (PRPs) at the Sauget Site. IEPA would assist U.S. EPA in the preparation of specific information requests to PRPs at the site. IEPA would also provide background information on technical, legal, community relations and other relevant activities to the Sauget Site. The nature of the agreement with the PRPs would be determined during negotiations, depending on the group's interest and liability at the site.
- 2) The enforcement activities described will be reviewed after a six month period to review the progress while U.S. EPA is in the enforcement lead, and to allow IEPA time to consider the benefits of the U.S. EPA lead.
- 3) Technical decisions on the site, including who will have the technical lead, will be delayed at the request of IEPA. The State has serious concerns over losing the technical lead of the project under any circumstance. IEPA also wants to assure that the Sauget Area 1 Site continue in the National Priorities List (NPL) scoring process for listing.

4) A decision will be made on the project technical lead as soon as possible, preferably before negotiations, so that the issue does not hinder or complicate an agreement or potential agreement with the PRP group.

5) If negotiations fail and the project enters into a federal fund lead status, IEPA would like to assume the technical lead. However, no decision has been made concerning this.